

LOADING DEVICE FOR NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTIONS OF COMPOSITE STRUCTURES

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 There is provided a loading device for applying a load to a composite structure during a non-destructive inspection. The loading device comprises a load indicator to indicate the load applied, which is preferably a normal load, and comprises a connector attached to the load indicator to connect the loading device to a surface of the structure. A support contacts the structure to support the load indicator and the connector. The support preferably comprises a plate and three legs, wherein the load indicator is attached to the plate and the legs contact the structure. The legs may comprise protective ends for contacting the structure and may define adjustable lengths. A load applicator in mechanical communication with the connector and the load indicator applies the load to the structure, advantageously by reducing the distance between the connector and load indicator to create the load. The connector may connect to the surface of the structure defining a protrusion or to a protrusion removably adhered to the surface of the structure.

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